(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the details of each of the accident of MIG aircraft crash which took place so far in 1996, the reasons therefor in each case, the number of persons killed and injured, the compensation paid and the results of enquiries conducted in each case; and

(d) the follow up action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 17th October, 1996, a MiG-21 FL during a "Tail Chase" exercise had an engine flame-out near Tezpur and crashed.

(c) Since January, 1996, 17 accidents on MiG variant aircraft have occurred. The Courts of Inquiry revealed that the cause of these accidents were Technical Defects, Human Error and Bird Strike. Five pilots sustained fatal injuries and one pilot was seriously injured. Three civilians were also killed. An amount of Rs. 2,15,650 has been paid towards the compensation for damage to civil property and loss of life.

(d) To contain these accidents, air support and attack patterns have been reviewed, and the manufacturers are also being associated. Steps have also been taken by the Ministries of Agriculture and Urban Affairs and Employment and the concerned State Governments for modernisation of slaughter houses/ carcass utilisation centres and sanitisation of areas around the bird-prone airfields to reduce bird activity.

Sharing of Ganga Water with Bangladesh

1490. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hasina to employ 'Bengali' factor to end water row" appearing in 'The Indian Express' New Delhi dated November 3, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the progress made so far to tackle the problem of sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh;

(d) whether the Bangladesh Prime Minister is likely to visit Delhi sort out this problem;

(e) the stand of the Union Government on this aspect; and

(f) whether the West Bengal Chief Minister will also be associated with the talks and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Discussions with regard to the sharing of Ganga waters have been held with the Government of Bangladesh. The discussions are continuing.

(d) The Bangladesh Prime Minister has been invited to visit India but the dates for such visit have not yet been fixed.

(e) Government of India would continue efforts for working out a mutually acceptable solution.

(f) Representative from West Bengal would continue to be associated with the talks on Ganga water sharing.

Irrigation Borewells

1491. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh propose to take up 10,000 irrigation bore wells for the poor backward farmers;

(b) whether from this project 50,000 acre will be irrigated and 10,000 employment will be created;

(c) if so, whether means of finance was from NBCFDC term loan DRDA subsidy, State Margin Money of APBCCFC and beneficiaries contribution @ 53;

(d) whether clearance from the Union Government has been asked in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The question concerns State Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, as per information received from the State Government, it proposes to take up 10,000 irrigation borewells. Irrigation potential ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 acres will be created and seasonal employment for about 10,000 agricultural labourers will be generated.

(c) The scheme will be financed by NBCFDC term loan, DRDA subsidy, State Margin Money of APBCCFC and beneficiaries contribution will be @ 5%.

(d) and (e). Union Government clearance is not required. Approval has been accorded by National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi.

Public Record Policy

1492. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not yet worked out any public record policy based on statutes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to formulate a public record policy if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The Public Records Act, 1993 (No. 69 of 1993) passed by the Parliament has been notified in the Gazette of India on 22nd December, 1993. The Act came into effect w.e.f. 1st March, 1995.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Financial Crisis in SAI

1493. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the financial crisis faced by the sub centres of Sports Authority of India in Kerala i.e. Kollam, Alapuzha, Thrissur, Kozhikode and Thalassery due to the failure of the concerned authorities for timely allotment of funds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for ensuring the timely allotment of funds to avoid difficulties for the trainees in these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) to (c). Due to curtailment of budget allotment under Non-Plan from Rs. 11.63 crore in 1995-96 to Rs. 6.00 crores in 1996-97 and non-provision of adequate allotment on Plan side, Sports Authority of India is generally facing a serious financial crisis during the current year. As such all Centres including the sub Centres of Sports Authority of India in Kerala are short of funds. Ministry of Finance have been apprised of the difficulties being faced by Sports Authority of India.

[Translation]

Shortage of Officers in Army

1494. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of personnel in different ranks in army retired and recruited during the last three years;

(b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has drawn the attention of the Government towards the shortage of personnels in Army in his annual report for this year; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to make up the shortage of personnel in the Army. These include introduction of University Entry Scheme, Direct Entry, Exemption from appearing in Combined Defence Services Examination for NCC 'C' Certificate holders, enhanced recruitment of Permanent Commissioned Officers and Short Service Commissioned Officers, induction of women as officers and re-employment of retired officers. There is no problem in recruiting personnel below officer rank to make up the shortage.

STATEMENT

The number of personnel in different ranks in Army retired and recruited during the last three years is as under :

			1993	1994	1995
(a)	Officers	Commissioned	1459	1430	1576
		Retired	2310	1959	1445
(b)	JCOs/ ORs	Recruited	48338	70681	87496
		Retired	22856	17349	26703

[English]

National Highways

1495. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of State roads declared as National Highways in the States during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) the State roads proposed to be declared as National Highways during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) During the 8th Five Year Plan, due to paucity of funds only two roads viz. Kurnool-Chittoor Road in Andhra Pradesh (totalling 369 Kms.) and Ghazipur-Ballia-Chhapra-Hajipur-Patna (totalling 240 Kms.) in the States of U.P. and Bihar were declared as National Highways.

(b) It is too early to give details, since the Ninth plan is yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Zonal Training Centre to Train Staff of KVS

1496. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to set up a zonal training centre to train staff of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;